

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE HEREBY ATTACHED

The Examiner is requested to accept the marked-up version as it is based on the previous version, which when modified as below, produces the clean version submitted with the current amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 5 and amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) incorporating an anesthetic in a lipophilic base into a volatile solvent to form a homogeneous solution;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation in amounts between 40-80%

wherein said volatile solvent is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol.

9. (Twice amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprises the steps of:

- a) mixing from about 40-80% of alcohol with a mixture containing:

from about 3-40% of lidocaine;  
from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, preferably about 1.5% thickener;  
from about 0.5 to about 2.0%, preferably about 1.5% emulsifier; and  
the balance being a lipophilic base;  
b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and  
c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

wherein said topical anesthetic rapidly penetrates the skin surface at said skin

wherein said volatile solvent is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol.

13. A method of obtaining topical anesthesia in mammals by way of topical application, said method comprising administering a formulation comprising a mixture of lidocaine in a lipophilic base dissolved in 40-80% alcohol

wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol.

14. (Once amended) A method for applying a topical anesthetic to an area of skin, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) incorporating an anesthetic in a lipophilic base into a volatile solvent to form a homogeneous solution;
- b) applying the homogeneous solution into the area of skin to be treated; and
- c) evaporating the volatile solvent from the homogeneous solution;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/954,494

Amendment B AND REQUEST FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Attorney Docket: 3863.015

wherein the volatile solvent is present in the formulation  
in amounts between 40 - 80%

wherein said volatile solvent is selected from the group  
consisting of isopropyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol

[The method of claim 1,] wherein the anesthetic is a eutetic  
mixture of lidocaine and prilocaine.